

REMARKS

Applicants filed a Rule 116 Amendment on November 20, 2006. The undersigned telephoned the Examiner today to confirm receipt, and to note the status of two related applications as discussed below.

More specifically, there are two pending continuation-in-part (CIP) applications claiming priority from the present application; namely, U.S. Application Nos. 10/826,972 and 11/108,164 (both under examination by Examiner Venkataraman Balasubramanian). In both of these CIP applications, the present application is being cited to support an obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Assuming the present application issues prior to one or both of the CIP applications, then no further action need be taken by the Examiner. However, should either of the CIP applications issue before the present application, Applicants wish to ensure that the Examiner has been made aware of the potential for entry of such a rejection.

Respectfully submitted,

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